



COMSATS

Institute of Information Technology

Lahore Campus

Department of Humanities

(July 2014-June 2015)

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Newsletter



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Introduction

Welcome to the 3rd edition of Humanities Bulletin! In this edition, you will come across news regarding an array of curricular and co-curricular activities such as professional workshops, training sessions, seminars, plays, declamation contests, symposia and civic engagement programs involving students in various creative projects conducted by the Humanities Department during the year July, 2014 to June, 2015.

This newsletter will also bring to you the details of our faculty members' notable achievements in the field of research. It will, furthermore, highlight their significant contribution in the form of books, research articles and other publications. As Humanities department has always promoted research and scholasticism, an interview of the renowned scholar and researcher, Dr. Tariq Rahman is also included to inspire our worthy readers. Keeping in view the importance of students' feedback and suggestions, testimonials of MS English and BS Psychology students are also part of the newsletter. You will find news about our faculty participation in conferences, seminars and workshops conducted by other organizations. Without further ado, let the newsletter speak of more details itself.

Happy reading!

Our Scholars Bring in Laurels

It is a matter of immense pride for Humanities Department that two of its distinguished scholars received awards for their significant contribution to the field of research; and one faculty member is selected as Executive Member by Pakistan Psychological Association (PPA).



Dr. Tahira Jibeen, Assistant professor of Applied Psychology, has received **Best Research Paper Award** from *Higher Education Commission* (HEC) for her research paper *Perceptions of Autonomy and Life Satisfaction in Pakistani Married Immigrant Women in Toronto, Canada* published in *Sex Roles: A journal of Research*. Her paper analyses the effects of immigration on gender roles and family relationships of Pakistani immigrants in Canada. The study focuses on Pakistani

perceptions of personal autonomy; life satisfaction; living arrangements (i.e., whether with in-laws) in both the countries; income and employment in Canada; and their expectations of, and willingness to, immigrate. The study finds out that, for these women, immigration was associated with more personal autonomy and life satisfaction, but determinants of women's autonomy differed in Pakistan and Canada.

- Dr. Tahira also received **Research Productivity Award CIIT 2014** at research productivity awards ceremony held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Pak-China Business Convention Center, Islamabad.



Dr. Zubair Baig, Assistant Professor of English, received **Research Productivity Award CIIT 2014** at the research productivity awards ceremony held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Pak China Business Convention Center, Islamabad.



Dr. Kashif Fida, Assistant Professor of Psychology is selected as Executive Member of Pakistan Psychological Association (PPA) for the year 2015-17

Academic Activities

1. MS English Inaugural

The demand for English language in the periphery countries is growing by the day. Indeed, today the number of non-native English speakers as compared to the native English speakers is far more. English Faculty of the Humanities Department organized an MS Inaugural and an Intervarsity English Language Linguistics, Literature and ELT Quiz Competition on 29th April, 2015 to provide a platform where the English Teaching community, teachers and students, can get together and network. The HoD CS Deptt. formally inaugurated the program by cutting a ribbon.

The proceedings started with the recitation by Mr Samar Kamal Fazli followed by a welcome address by the In-charge Humanities Dr Filza Waseem, featuring an introduction to CIIT, Humanities Deptt., MS Program, and its scope and importance in today's world. Chief Guest, Dr Asad, HoD CS, highlighted the importance of Humanities subjects and literature. He also reflected on his interest in Literature. He appreciated the efforts and progress of the Department of Humanities since its inception, 5 years ago.

The quiz among five participating teams, GCU, NUML, UOE, Dial Sing College was conducted. It was followed by brief address by the PhD faculty of English ; Dr Khalida Tanvir Syed,

Dr. Mirza Muhammad Zubair Baig, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad and Dr. Mudassar Mahmood Ahmad. They spoke about their academic and research interests highlighting certain guidelines that may lead the new researchers to the success in their cherished disciplines.



Judges and the audience

On the occasion, research publications and dissertations produced by English teaching faculty so far, were also displayed for the guests to view. The participants were given certificates and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd position holding teams were awarded shields. The faculty members accompanying the participants were presented letters of appreciation.



The faculty of English language & literature

2. Personal and Professional Development

A Two-Day Workshop on CV & Cover Letter Writing, Interview Skills and Personal/Professional Growth

In order to train the students of CIIT Lahore, Department of Humanities arranged a 2-day workshop on "Personal and Professional Development." The Workshop was conducted by Brig (R) Wajahat Ahmed Chaudhry (Sitara e Imtiaz (m)), and Lt. Col. Naukhez FR Khan. This training/workshop session was chiefly organized by Ms. Memoona Idris, Lecturer English. It was meant to enlighten the students on their personality and professional

development and planning, CV writing, interviews techniques and more. The workshop guided the students about how to enhance their personal and professional qualities to succeed in today's challenging job market. It provided them training on how to hone their skills in order to secure themselves a better future. The workshop was commended by the management, faculty and the students alike.



Ms. Memoona giving introduction



**Left to right: Lt. Col. Naukhez FR Khan,
Dr. Hina, Mr. Ghulam Hassain**

3. Career Shop

IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to promoting women engineers, scientists and inspiring girls around the world to follow their academic interests to a career in engineering. To educate students about the importance of gender equality and improving skills to land on better jobs, while keeping in mind sexist biasing, IEEE-WIE CIIT Lahore arranged a Workshop on Interview Strategies and Reducing Sexism in the Workplace called "Careershop." The workshop took place on 18th May, 2015 in the seminar room, A block, in

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Lahore, conducted by Ms. Memoona Idris of the Department of Humanities.

The aim of this workshop was to educate all the students to eradicate sexist stereotyping by briefing them on a list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors in the field, and about the benefits of such behaviors in scoring better on interviews. The workshop was open for all students-male and female, and invited a mixed audience to erase the hardcoded societal codes that gave rise to inequality between the genders.



Dr. Sobia Baig presenting the certificate to Ms. Memoona



Ms. Memoona delivering presentation

4. Seminar on History of Education

A seminar on History of Education was organized by Dr. Hussain Ahmad Khan on Thursday, 8th January 2015, in Seminar Room, A-Block.

The seminar commenced with an opening speech by Dr. Filza Waseem, In-charge,

Department of Humanities, followed by the Director's address. Dr. Tariq Rahman, Dean, BNU, shared his views on "History of Urdu in the Education System of British India," which was followed by a question answer session.

"The teaching of Urdu as well as Hindi facilitated the mobilization of the antagonistic Muslim and Hindu communal identities which led eventually to the partition of India." Dr. Tariq Rehman

Dr. Sumaira Noreen, from Royal Holloway College, University of London, expressed her views on “Shaping Secondary Education for a New Nation: Pakistan 1947-1958”. Dr. Filza Waseem, talked about “The Legacy of the Colonial Project of English Education in

Pakistan”. Dr. Khuram Hussain, from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, New York, spoke on “Revising the Revision: An Historical Retelling of Popular Narratives on Education Reform.” The seminar ended with a note of thanks for the speakers.

5. Workshop on Stress Management Coping and Health

A workshop entitled Stress Management Coping and Health was organized by Ms. Shazia Gulzar, on 4th December, 2014. The workshop was conducted by guest speaker, Mr. Usman Rasheed, Director, Fountain House, Lahore. The focus of the workshop was to strengthen the student's daily coping towards stressors to maximize their productivity. They were not only informed about form and function of stress but they were also trained to overcome it with professional training.

In order to enlighten the students about importance of reducing stress, the speaker advised the students that, “you should not get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of life that you

forget to take care of your own needs.”

He further suggested that, “You can increase your resistance to stress by strengthening your physical health. For this purpose, you should eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, reduce caffeine and sugar, avoid alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs, get enough sleep”. The students rated the workshop very useful in the feedback on productivity and utility of the workshop. Moreover, they suggested that stress management coping and health should be included in the course as a permanent module.

6. The Fulbright Experience: A guidance and information session

Department of Humanities organized a guidance and information session in April 2015. The guest speaker Ms. Asma Bajwa enlightened the students about Fulbright scholarships and informed, “Fulbright is the flagship fellowship award program of the United States Department of State. Since 2005, Pakistan has had the largest fulbright program in the world, funded mainly by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).” Talking about the types of Fulbright scholarships available to Pakistani students, the speaker highlighted, “There are 6 types of Fulbright Scholarships for Pakistan. These scholarships cover all kinds of educational

programs except clinical medicine and a Ph.D in Business Administration.”

The students took keen interest in the seminar and asked a number of questions. The speaker Asma Bajwa was also enthusiastic to share and interact. Students asked realistic and practical questions and brought life to the session.



A Fulbright scholar sharing his experience



Asma Bajwa sharing her views with the audience

7. An Informative Seminar on IELTS

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) serves as a perfect medium to evaluate speaker's language proficiency and helps them explore numerous educational and employment opportunities. Taking IELTS opens new horizons of opportunities– it can help you live, study and work around the world. Keeping in view its importance, Humanities Department arranged an informative seminar on IELTS conducted by British Council on 19th September, 2014. The purpose of the seminar was to orient students about the test format and its components as well as discuss common myths about it. Two students of CIIT Lahore namely M. Salman Tahir and Shaf Younas, ambassadors of British Council, contributed to the arrangement of the event under the supervision of Umara Shaheen, Lecturer in

English. Emphasizing the importance of taking IELTS with British Council he said, “We have been teaching and conducting IELTS for the last 75 years. In more than 130 countries, we have helped people gain English language qualifications that can enable them to make the most of their chances in life. So, taking English language test with us will ensure that you'll be well looked after.”



Marking Manager of British Council delivering presentation



Guest speaker along with HoD Humanities and the organizing team

Dr. Filza's emphasized the importance of IELTS and informed students that Humanities department has already conducted three successful IELTS training sessions. She motivated them to join the training session Humanities Department intends to start in near future.

8.Exploring Scholarship Opportunities in Canada

A Talk by Dr. Khalida Tanveer Syed

Canada being an attractive destination for international students offers numerous opportunities for higher education. Since 2012, it has been the seventh most popular country among international students. “The *International Council for Canadian Studies* (ICCS) is offering a number of scholarship opportunities for international students” explained Dr. Khalida Tanveer Syed, Associate Professor of English, during her talk on 25th May, 2015. ICCS, founded in 1981, is a not-for-profit organization composed of 23 member associations and 5

associate members in thirty-nine countries, dedicated to the promotion and support of research, education and publication in all fields of Canadian Studies around the world. She talked about ICCS scholarships and awards that include: *Graduate Student Scholarship*, *Canadian Studies Postdoctoral Scholarships*, *Governor General's International Award in Canadian Studies*, *Pierr Savard Awards* and *Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies*.

The informative seminar was concluded with the question-answer session.

9.Step Ahead and Make a Difference!

(Women Empowerment and Leadership Workshop)

Women empowerment and education are important not only for women exclusively but for all families who are attached to these women. There are numerous research evidences that the organizations with gender diversity at top level management perform better. Keeping in view the importance of women autonomy and leadership, a two-day workshop on Women Empowerment and Leadership (WEL) was organized by CIIT Lahore on 19th February in Faletti's Hotel. The objective of the workshop was to help professional women explore their hidden potential by developing confidence and

leadership acumen.

“Ever since the Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif announced the package for women development back in 2012, many measures have been taken for women empowerment,” provincial minister Zakia Shahnawaz said in her address to the participants and guests. “With education and skills come empowerment, and the government has taken measures for free school education of all,” she further added. While addressing the gathering, Punjab Ombudswoman Dr Mira Phailbus said that

women might face regarding social taboos such as harassment at workplace. In such cases, they fear retaliation from the employers as well as their own families. They also fear losing their livelihood over such issues.

High potential, emerging women managers, academicians and entrepreneurs such as Prof. Dr. Funda Sivrikaya, Rector of Duzce University, Turkey; Prof. Dr. Nigar Demircan Cakar, ProRector of Duzce University; Dr. Nasira Javed Iqbal, Musarrat Misbah, President of Depilex & Smile Again Foundation, Muneeza Hashmi, Benazir Chair at LCWU and Seema Aziz, MD, Sefam Industries were invited as guest speakers who shared their inspirational success stories and extended guidance to the participants regarding unleashing their leadership potential and career development. The workshop was a huge success and left indelible impact on the participants as well as organizers.



Dr. Nasira Javed, Zakia Shahnawaz and Mira Phailus



Seema Aziz and Musarrat Misbah



Muneeza Hashmi



Students presenting Turkish mime at dinner

10. School, Culture and Society: Impact of Multiculturalism

(A Seminar on the Comparative Analysis of Pakistani and Canadian School Systems)

International comparisons in the fields of education and professional training have great importance to understand and analyze the reasons behind economic growth, scientific developments and progress in other fields. Pakistan and Canada both have quite distinct education systems. As compared to Pakistan, Canadian society has a multicultural make-up and teaching multicultural students demands creativity, diligence, extra effort, and courage on the teacher's part. To discuss the methodologies

and techniques of teaching immigrants in particular and students in general, Dr. Khalida Tanveer, Associate Professor of English, delivered a lecture on "School, culture and society: Impact of multiculturalism" at Gift University, Gujranwala, in February, 2015. Dr. Khalida drew a comparative analysis of the Pakistani and Canadian school systems and shed light on their strengths and shortcomings. She stressed that Pakistan should also adopt positive attributes of the Canadian education system.

11. South Asia: Religion, State and Society

(A History Seminar)

Professor Mohammad Waseem, in his presentation at the one-day conference, titled 'South Asia: Religion, State and Society ' held on December 8, 2014 at COMSATS Lahore mapped the history of religio-political propensities in Pakistan in his inimitable style. He focused on the shift in the relationship between the state and religion. The principal point of inquiry of his scholarly deliberation underlined the role of religion in determining rationale and



Tahir Kamran delivering key note address



Ali Usman Qasmi addressing the audience

and structure of the state, particularly in Pakistan. The point worth underscoring here is that any dispensation with religious injunctions not only leads to socio-political implosion but also spawns international conflict. In the post 9/11 scenario, right wing politics in Pakistan and also in other countries anti-Western paranoia is alarmingly rampant, as informed by Tahir Kamran.

This seminar brought together scholars to explore practices developed by empires and states in order to govern the behavior of their subjects. The seminar aimed at exploring perspectives such as how South Asian societies maintain their political structures, social groups, cultural and religious identities and how contemporary historical theories and methodological tools allow or disallow the voices of people.



Tariq Rahman and Christopher Moffat

Others who spoke on the event were Dr. Virinder Kalra (Manchester University), Noor Rehman (Government College University, Lahore), Mr. Rehan Iqbal (Bahauddin Zakariya University), Dr. Tahir Mahmood (Government College University, Lahore) Dr. Tariq Rahman, Dr. Faraz Anjum (Punjab University), Dr. Christopher Moffat (Cambridge University), Dr. Elisabeth Makiko Leake (Royal Holloway College), Dr. Ali Usman Qasmi (LUMS), and Dr. Yakoob Bangash (Forman Christian College, Lahore).



From left to right: Virinder Kalra, Farhat Mahmud, Elisabeth Makiko, Tahir Mahmood, Noor Rehman



Faculty of Humanities with the guests

12. Miracle of “Al-'Isrā' Wal-Mi'rāj” الإسراء والمعراج (A seminar on Miraj)

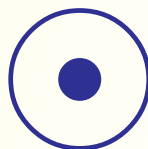
“Exalted is He (Allah) who took his bondsman (Muhammad) for a journey by night from Masjid-il-Haram (Ka'abah) to Masjid-il-Aqsa (the Mosque in Jerusalem), the neighbourhood whereof we have blessed, in order that we might show him our signs...” (17:1).



Dr. Muhammad Abdullah

The incident of Miraj (Ascension) is the living wonder of mankind history confirmed by Allah Almighty in the Holy Quran. The individuals who rejected the truth of this supernatural occurrence were known by the name of Abu Jahal and the individuals who put stock in its honesty and legitimacy came to be known as Abu Baker Saddique. These were the views of Dr. Muhammad Abdullah, Associate Professor,

Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre From University Punjab. He said that prayer, the gift of the journey, is the endowment of the journey of Miraj, the excursion of adoration and significance and the Muslim world ought to hang on this blessing. The incident of Al-Israa' and Al-Mi'rāj is loaded with lessons and noteworthy messages for all. More than that, this prophetic voyage of enormous significance insinuates various other critical and complex substances of sweeping concern to humankind.





Students' Activities

1. COMSATS International Model United Nations Conference (CIMUN)

CIMUN was an emotional and motivational experience for the students as they found it interesting to pretend being a world leader and solve the most important problems of the world. Model UN triggered students' imagination and creativity. COMSATS Lahore Debating society, Nexus Events and PR, and the faculty adviser Ms. Rabia Ashraf from department of Humanities were all braced up to achieve a successful cosmopolitan Model United Nations-the first ever of COMSATS Lahore. The purpose of organizing this event was to bring together a range of young minds to discuss local and international issues and to boost their public speaking and leadership skills, and to make COMSATS a part of the institutes that conduct MUNs.

In addition to Model UN committee sessions, the conference included in-conference events featuring guest speaker sessions with Depilex, Smile Again Foundation and United States Educational Foundation Program. Additionally, the conference hosted a Fashion Show, Formal Dinner, Sufi Devotional Music Night and Global Village as its social events.

The event started with a formal opening ceremony following a colored global village where disguise played the game and diversity was its apex. For the next two days, the participants from Pakistan and outside were engaged in committee sessions at day time while they were allowed to sing and dance at the social

events held in the evening. The Social Responsibility programme conducted by Musarat Misbah and Ms. Rabia Ashraf was a thought to ponder for the audience. Qawalli night put many to trance and made them swirl and swing to the beat of the traditional Qawalli. “Be it the amiable Global Village, mesmerizing Qawali, eccentric Fashion Vogue or the Themed Dinner - it was a fantastic experience for every one of us,” informs a participant of the event.

Committees simulated in COMSATS International Model UN 2015 were special political and decolonization committee, disarmament and international security committee, and social, cultural and humanitarian committee under United Nations general assembly; United nations development programme, United nations human rights council, and World health organization under Economic and social council; and Specialized committees included united nations security council, Pakistan national assembly, game of thrones council.

A total of 160 delegates participated in CIMUN '15. Students from various cities travelled to Lahore to participate in the conference. A few international delegates from Sudan, Palestine and Nigeria also participated in the conference. Students from the following institutes participated in COMSATS International Model UN 2015:

Forman Christian College University, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Rashid Latif Medical College, Rawalpindi, LGS Johar Town (Girls Branch), NUST Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME), NUCES, FAST Lahore, Beaconhouse

(Defence Campus), CIIT Sahiwal, Air University, Islamabad, Lahore College of Arts and Sciences (LACAS), University of the Punjab, Kinnaird College for Women, Punjab University Law College, and Military College of Engineering, Risalpur.



Qawalli night



Closing ceremony (L to R): Ms. Samiya Shehzad, Ms. Shazia Aziz and Ms. Rabia Ashraf



Mussarat Misbah
&
Rabia Ashraf



Committee Sessions



Committee Sessions

2. Reflections - An Anthology of Poetry by COMSIANS

(Composition of Poetry Followed by a Photo-Walk in Spring 2015)

If Autumn is the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” as Keats Says in his 'Ode to Autumn', Spring can be called the season of colours and cheerfulness. Thrilled by this festivity, the students of SP15-BCS-A, SP15-BCS-B (Computer Science Department) and FA14-BPSY (Humanities Department) accompanied by Ms Shazia Aziz, their English Comprehension and Composition instructor, went round the campus for a photo-walk in the month of March when the Spring season, 2015 was in full swing.

This photo-walk gave them the opportunity to see what they hardly see in routine. They captured the beauties of nature in their memories and cameras. Afterwards they displayed a slideshow of their selected pictures in class. Inspired by this photo walk and their collected memories, they wrote poems afterwards which



Students during the photo-walk and editors at work for compilation of anthology of poetry

were compiled in a collection titled, “Reflections - An anthology of poetry by COMSAINS.” The editing was done by Ms. Shazia Aziz, Muhammad Moeed Khalid and Sahar Javaid of SP15-BCS-B.

3. Chal Bulleya Fer Othay Chaliyay!

Shades Of Sufism

Pour not on prayers, forget the fasts.

Wipe off Kalma from the sight.

Bulleh has found his lover within,

Others grope in the pitch-dark night.

What a spark of knowledge is kindled ~

I find that I am neither Hindu nor Turk.

I am a lover by creed;

A lover is victorious even when swindled.

Sufism is a divine knowledge bestowed by God upon a selected few for the benefit of humanity. The aim of Sufi teaching is to make tried and tested methods of gaining enlightenment accessible to people who are living ordinary lives in the modern world. In order to enlighten the students about teachings of Sufism, and to pay a tribute to the legendary Sufi Baba Bulleh



Students presenting the play

Shah, a mystic play “Shades of Sufism; The Journey of Bulleh Shah” was presented on 18th October, 2014 during Students Week. The play was based on the biography of Sufi Baba Bulleh Shah and his teachings of compassion and divine love. The play was directed by Ms. Shumaila Bari from Humanities department.



Students presenting the play

4. Fusion of Art

To celebrate the diversity of human expression through arts, Mariyam Akram and Shumaila Bari, Lecturers in Humanities Department, organized a full-packed entertaining event “Fusion of Art” on April 07, 2015; the event was

a blend of singing, dancing, and other performing arts. The students of COMSATS from different disciplines were given opportunity to explore and unleash their potential.

The highlight of the event was a memorable performance by a noted singer and the Guest of Honour Inam Ali Khan of Raga Boyz, who is the son of Ustad Hamid Ali Khan. His ghazal “*Mora sayyan mujh se bole na*” spinned the audience into trance. The event culminated by giving away the titles “Lady of the Day” and “Gentleman of the Day” to the students selected from the audience on the basis of voting. Moreover, Dr. Filza Waseem, HoD Humanities, presented a shield to



A student amusing audience with his melodious song



Dr. Filza presenting souvenir to Inam Ali Khan

the Guest of Honour as token of appreciation. Fusion of Art was a fun-filled entertainment package which was appreciated a great deal by the audience.



Students performing a skit

5. A Green Affair: Tree Plantation Project

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the next best time is now!" (Chinese proverb)

Realizing the fact that although trees are a lifeline for sustainability, our natural environment is deteriorating at a fast pace because of deforestation and the only way to salvage the environment is by taking the responsibility, students of COMSATS indulged

themselves in a heuristic exercise of turning the campus green last October. Ms. Sarah Saeed, with the collaboration of 'COMSATS Lahore Humanitarian Society' organized an event 'Project Plant it!' on 6th November 2014. This event was organized under 'COMSATS Environmental League' which is the part of Civic Engagement Program.



Students and faculty passionately promoting the project



Director CIIT planting the first tree

Around 130 Conacarpus trees were planted in the campus vicinity by students and faculty. The objective of this mass plantation was to create awareness and educate students regarding the

significance of Trees as crucial part of a healthy and stable environment. It was a daylong event that lasted till 4:30. The endeavor was appreciated by students and faculty alike.

6. Think Quick! Inter-Universities Quiz Competition

An Inter-Universities Quiz Competition was organized by Ms. Mariyam Akram, on 22nd October, 2014. The teams from various universities i.e UCP, BNU and UMT participated in the quiz competition along with the host team of CIIT. The teams of BNU, UMT and UCP secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. The shields and certificates were presented by the guest of honour

Dr. M. A. Bodla, Director, CIIT Lahore appreciated the efforts of the whole organizing team for making this event a success.



Dr. Mehmood Ahmed Bodla along with participants

7. Wandering in the Remnants of the Past Generations: A trip to Qila Rohtas

Ignited with the spirit to get acquaintance with the archeological glory of the past, a group of students headed to Qila Rohtas. The devastated, old Qila proved to have a deepening spiritual impact on its visitors. The decay seemed injecting immense peace to the restless soul, the

ambitious beast inside settles finding the prints of past generations. Such a place is the manifestation of the truth of life. While taking photographs of its splendid architecture, the students were awed with admiration for its architecture and grandeur.



Majestic view of Qila Rohtas

The purpose of the trip was to introduce the students to the History of Asia. The trip inspired the students for further research and they produced valuable documents reflecting the



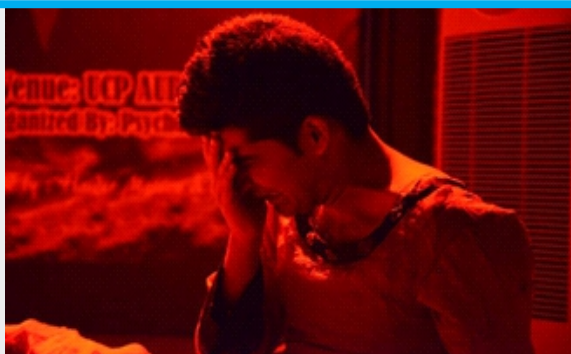
Students enjoying the tour

brief history of different Architectural Heritage of Pakistan. It was held under the guidance of Ms Shumaila Bari on 26th October 2014.

8. Inter-University Performing Arts Competition

The team representing COMSATS, under the supervision of Ms. Maryam Akram, participated in the Inter-University Performing Arts Competition on “Parent-Child Relationship” in the University of Central Punjab (UCP) on 23rd October, 2014.

It highlighted mother's affection and father's reaction at the birth of a unisex child. It was appreciated by the audience. The event and competition also provided the students an opportunity to interact with other universities.



Protagonist crying on his miserable life



Affection of mother and rejection of father at the birth of Unisex child

9. Students' Performances at GIMUN'14: Learning the Art of Diplomacy

In order to expose our students to the challenging environment of talking about the controversial issues and involving into the intricacies of formulating and defending foreign policy, and quite critically, analytically and meticulously drafting resolutions.



Department of Humanities, COMSATS, Lahore Campus got registered its students in The Seventh Edition of GIKI Model United Nations 2014 (GIMUN '14) held at the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), Topi, from 17th to 19th October 2014 and won two *Best Delegate* (UNSC & DISEC) awards and one *Honorary Mention* (UNDP) award.



10. The Fab Minds (Painting Exhibition)

“Life imitates art far more than art imitates life” said Oscar Wild emphasizing the crucial and influential role of art. Artists truly can bring revolutionary changes with a few strokes of brush. To celebrate art and aestheticism, a painting exhibition was arranged in the students' week 2015, where students of COMSATS under the supervision of Ms. Tooba Ahmed collaborated with five universities to display their work. Dr. Filza Waseem, HoD Humanities, accompanied by the faculty members inaugurated the exhibition. Different aspects of life e.g. peace, love, ambition, harmony, evil and

death were shown through paintings in a convincing and credible way.



A student displaying her paintings



Three prize winning paintings (L to R): 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes



Painting competition among faculty members

To let faculty members unleash their potential, a painting competition was organized for them which was won by Javaria Farooqi, Assistant professor of English. People from different departments of COMSATS visited the painting exhibition. Apart from other interesting activities, this painting exhibition was worth-seeing with music played in the background. This vibrant and lively activity added a unique color to the students' week.



Faculty and guests

11. Royal Trail- An Epitome of Grandeur

A Photo Walk through the Walled City of Lahore

Heritage sites and buildings have a great influence on the way a community develops. Heritage significantly contributes to community life through regeneration, education, economic growth and community engagement. Lahore is blessed with extraordinary rich heritage of architecture and has become one of the most famous tourist attractions. To observe and capture the grandeur of the glorious Mughal Architecture, around 30 students from different departments of CIIT Lahore accompanied by Ms. Shazia Aziz, Ms. Memoona Idrees and Mr. Hafeezullah Shah participated in a four-hour walk organized by the Lahore Walled City Authority.

During this photo walk, the guides showed them round the recently restored Royal Trail monuments like Delhi Gate, the Royal Bath (Shahi Hamam), the Lahore Fort, Wazir Khan



Faculty members and students standing in front of Delhi Gate

Masjid, the Begum Shahi Masjid and many more. The traditional culture still alive within the vicinity of the walled city astounded the students. They were also impressed by the foresightedness of the builders who made such weather- friendly buildings in small localities inside the narrow streets of the walled city.



The Royal Bath being revamped



A beautiful view of the grand Badshahi Mosque in the background of a locality



Faculty and students enjoying rickshaw ride



Captivating view of renovated buildings at Food Street

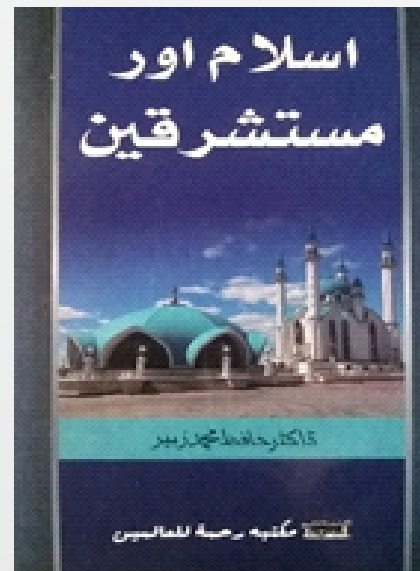
Faculty Publications:

1. Islam and Orientalism

Orientalism is a term used by art historians, literary, cultural and religious studies scholars for Western attitude towards Middle Eastern, Asian and North African societies. Since the 18th century, Orientalist has been the traditional term for a scholar of Oriental i.e. East Studies. The academic discipline of Oriental Studies is now more often called Asian, Middle East or Area Studies.

During the last two centuries so many Encyclopedias, books, manuscripts, research papers and articles have been compiled and written in the West about Islam and Quran by authors of diverse backgrounds – Jews, Christians, even self-confessed atheists and Marxists that the present layman in Europe feels that the whole spectrum of opinion on the subject is already available in the Western literature.

Thus, when a western is asked, what do you know about Islam? He might answer: it is the religion of Muslims. He may add a conjecture that the Islam is a religion of terrorism. They argue that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was an imposter; the narration of his life by



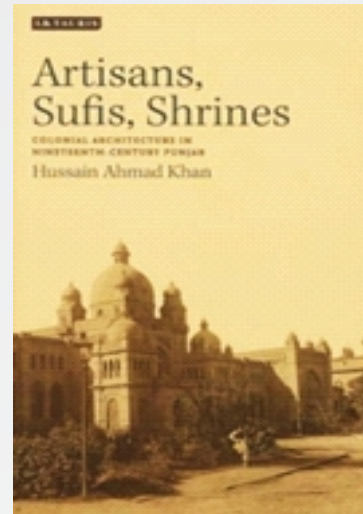
orientalists gives the reader the impression that he had carefully planned in his mind the entire scheme beforehand. The Quran is discredited as a forgery. Islam was merely the Judeo-Christian heritage Arabicized and nationalized and presented as a curious mixture of Judaism, Christianity and Arab paganism.

This research is penned by Dr Muhammad Zubair, comprises almost 200 pages and gives a critical and analytic review of the orientalists' major assumptions and theories about the Quran, Hadith, Biography of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), History of Islam and Islamic Law. This monograph also points out their faults, misconceptions, inconsistencies and fanaticism.

2. Sufis confronted Colonial British art administrators through their cultural projects in Punjab

In nineteenth-century Punjab, a cultural tug-of-war ensued as both Sufi mystics and British officials aimed to engage the local artisans as a means of realizing their ideological ambitions. When it came to influence and impact, the Sufi shrines had a huge advantage over the colonial art institutions, such as the Mayo School of Arts in Lahore. The mystically inspired shrines, built as a statement of Muslim ruling ambitions, were better suited to the task of appealing to local art traditions. By contrast the colonial institutions, rooted in the Positivist Romanticism of the Victorian West, found assimilation to be more of a challenge. These ideas are expressed by Hussain Ahmad Khan in his recently published book, *Artisans, Sufis, Shrines: Colonial Architecture in Nineteenth-century Punjab*. In questioning their relative success and failures at influencing local culture, Hussain explores the extent to which political control translates into cultural influence. The book is published by IB Tauris based in London and New York. The author is an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities, COMSATS, Lahore.

Folktales, Sufi shrines, colonial architecture, institutional education methods and museum exhibitions all provide a wealth of sources for revealing the complex dynamics between the Punjabi artisans, the Sufi community and the colonial British. In this unique look at a little-



explored aspect of India's history, Hussain explores this evidence in order to illuminate this web of cultural influences. Examining the Sufi-artisan relationship within the various contexts of political revolt, the decline of the Mughals and the struggle of the Sufis to establish an Islamic state, he argues that Sufi shrines were initially constructed with the aim of affirming a distinct 'Muslim' identity. At the same time, art institutions established by colonial officials attempted to promote eclectic architecture representing the 'British Indian empire', as well as to revive the pre-colonial traditions with which they had previously seemed out of touch. This book sheds new light on the dynamics of power and culture in the British Empire.

Maurizio Peleggi, editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (published by Cambridge University, UK) believes that “This book makes a significant contribution to the scholarship on the cultural and social history of the subcontinent's Muslim communities.”

Another renowned scholar of Islamic History, Nile Green, who is currently associated with University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) comments 'By exploring the intersection of shrine architecture, folklore, festival markets and artisan life, Hussain shows the contours of an indigenous “Arts and Crafts Movement” that resisted the Morris-and-Ruskin discourse of colonial art institutions. This is a fascinating addition to the literature on Muslims in colonial Punjab.' Arindam Dutta, who is Director of

Architectural History Programme at MIT suggests that 'The originality of Khan's study lies in its emphasis that artisanal production is not entirely a secular artefact. In placing craft as a scene of several encounters – of a “positivist” administration with Sufi ideas, of curatorial conceits within an indifferent, confusing profusion of objects and audiences – Khan radically complicates the story so far, combining theological insight with the study of art historical and governmental attitudes.'



Research Articles published in Journals

1. The Legacy of the Colonial Project of English Education in Pakistan

This review article by Dr Filza Waseem, explores the aims, implementations and results of the British Imperial education policies in the Indian Subcontinent which installed English language as a measure to establish British influence and control over the colony. It looks into the historical beginnings of English in Pakistan in the postcolonial context, which resulted in the loss of Persian, the end of the indigenous system of education, formation of hybrid identities, and the establishment of elite institutions. These issues are still plaguing the education system in present day Pakistan. The chasm created thus between the English educated elite and the vernacular educated masses, the urban and the rural has persisted to the present day in the form of state-run institutions and elite institutions, and has become a source of alienation of those who perceive themselves as the have-nots of elite system of education. By making English a prerequisite for better jobs, the language policy has implicated it in social as well as economic formulations. The elite have used English to maintain their power and the less privileged section of society has been left disempowered by the inability to access English. English has become a divider not only economically but also socially as the present policies are favorable to those who are English educated. The chasm remains between the elite institution students, the “brown sahibs” of yore, in the form of westernized, hybrid identities and the students

of the state-school educated masses. International Journal of Business and Social Science Vol. 5, No. 11(1); October 2014.

2. University Students' Attitudes towards Code-switching

The project (book chapter), *University Students' Attitudes towards Code-switching* emerged as a research methods training initiative for teachers organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the British Council. This paper is an example of descriptive research, where the goal is not to test a hypothesis nor to achieve generalizable results, but to understand the way things are – in this case, students' views about code-switching during English lessons.

The purpose of this study is to investigate university students' attitudes towards code-switching during English classes. Although maximizing the use of the target language is generally seen to be desirable in the foreign language classroom it is the case in Pakistani context that code switching is a common feature of English language teaching. The researcher, Amna Naveed Assistant Professor at COMSATS Lahore campus, therefore wanted to examine students' views about this issue (e.g. to see whether they shared researcher's belief in maximizing target language use by the teacher and students). To investigate the purpose of this study closed-ended questionnaires were administered and the result indicated that a more moderate approach, of using L1, on teachers' part might be received more positively by the students. This does not mean that the teacher would allow the use of the L1 to overtake the use

of English in the lessons; however, the judicious use of L1 may encourage them to learn and use L2. The research contribution is published by the British Council in *Promoting Language Teacher Research in Higher Education: Potential and Challenges*, edited by Dr. Simon Borg.

3. Analysis of Cyber Language: Identifying Gender Boundaries

Computer-mediated communication (CMC) which is proliferating in the lives of the most of the people today has challenged the existing stereotype about females that they speak different than males. CMC, Cyber language, not only gives the freedom to females to express their views but to wear whatever gender they want to. The present study is an attempt to investigate if the language differences exist in both genders' use of cyber language. For this purpose the data was collected from the facebook walls of hundred users whose ages range from 13 to 30. The results of the study reflect that a new but easily understandable language has evolved through Facebook which is responsible for significant differences between males' and females' linguistic properties. The results show that a specific age group from a gender is the dominant user of a specific feature but that very feature is absent on the wall posts of the same age group of the other gender.

Levine's test for equality of variances revealed that there is a significant difference between genders on the basis of compounding, coinage, abbreviation, acronyms, non-standard spelling, letter insertion and clipping; whereas, no significant difference was found between genders on the basis of blending, derivation, conversion, abbreviation, phonetic spelling and letter number homophone. On the other hand,

genders significantly differ from each other on the basis of their use of non-standard spelling and phonetic spellings. It is hoped that the knowledge shared by, Amna Naveed, Assistant Professor of English (in co authorship of Ms. Shazia Aziz & Dr. Musfera Mehfooz), in her research paper "Analysis of Cyber Language: Identifying Gender Boundaries" published in *European Academic Research* (Vol. II, Issue 7) in October 2014 would make a contribution to the growing literature on multilingual computer-mediated communication (CMC).

4. Socioeconomic Status and Adolescent Aggression: The Role of Executive Functioning as a Mediator

The onset of aggression during a critical stage of adolescence is reported frequently in literature. This transitional stage of life is characterized with many changes including biological, cognitive and socio-emotional. With regard to cognitive changes, many researchers report increasing abstract reasoning, response inhibition, and attentional set shifting skills during adolescence. Given the cognitive development that occurs during adolescence, the brain might be more vulnerable to social and physical environmental influences during this stage. Literature reports poor environment, lacking in basic resources, to be a predictor of cognitive development. A research focused on investigating the mechanism through which Socio Economic Status (SES) determines adolescent aggression was conducted by Dr Shameem Fatima, Assistant Professor of Psychology. This research entitled "Socioeconomic Status and Adolescent Aggression: The Role of Executive Functioning as a Mediator" was published in an ISI Indexed and impact factor (1.03) journal named "American Journal of Psychology", vol 127,

Issue 4. Researcher found that SES affects the development of executive cognitive functions and these compromised Executive cognitive skills lead the adolescent towards expression of aggression. The online reference of this particular research study is: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/ameripsyc.127.4.0419>

5. Association of Parent–Child Relationships and Executive Functioning in South Asian Adolescents

It is known that some environmental variables can significantly affect the development of executive cognitive functions. A study focused on analyzing the effect of some family conditions, such as the perceived parent– child relationships and the socioeconomic status (SES; assessed according to education, occupational status, and income) on development of executive cognitive functioning was conducted by Dr Shameem Fatima (principal author), Assistant Professor in Psychology. This research entitled “Association of Parent–Child Relationships and Executive Functioning in South Asian Adolescents” was published online in an ISI Indexed and impact factor (3.42) journal named “Neuropsychology”. Researchers found that perceived parent– child relationships, SES, and parents' education are significantly associated with test performance tapping executive cognitive function during adolescents. The online reference of this particular research study is: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/neu0000216>.

6. The Concept of “Home” in Strindberg's *The Father*

Home, within the dramatic world of the text in question, becomes a space which the characters, especially Laura inscribes rather than just inhabits. The metaphor of home is a popular

metaphor in literature, especially in the postcolonial and social drama of Ibsen and Chekhov and other such playwrights of the modern era. House or home plays a significant role in plays like *Hedda Gabler*, *Doll's House*, *The Cherry Orchard* and also in other plays by Strindberg like *The Dance of Death* and to an extent in *Miss Julie* too. In *The Father* however, it changes its connotations, especially with respect to Laura's character as the plot develops. It becomes from a place of oppression to that of power for her and finally a Sibyl's cave where she uses her sorcery and creativity in a somewhat twisted way to mould things according to her desire. Ms. Memoona Idris conducted a research which critically analyzed the space which defines “home” in *The Father*. In her paper, she looked into how it is used and consequently differed in meaning through the intervention of Laura, and talks about how the simile of the cave corresponds with womb and the female abode. The paper drew upon “The Parables of the Cave” written by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar.

7. Amalgamation of Multiple Temporal and Spacial Frames in “Sunlight” by Seamus Heaney

Time and space are the two dimensions of any work of art. How a writer employs these two decides how good a piece may be. Many writers use it to add depth to their work and so does Heaney, in many of his poems. “Digging” and other such poems are an example of these, what sets “Sunlight” apart from other such poems, however, is the ease and mastery with which Heaney amalgamates various temporal and special shifts in it. Ms. Memoona Idris from COMSATS IIT wrote a paper that analyzes the frames of time and space that are created in the

special shifts in it. Ms. Memoona Idris from COMSATS IIT wrote a paper that analyzes the frames of time and space that are created in the poems, and how Heaney blends them and merges them into each other.

8. Rewriting Breeds Silences: Beast of Burden, Anxiety of Authorship and the Question of Truth in J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*

Susan Barton, the narrator of *Foe*, idealizes a mode of writing based on bare truth, but she cannot execute her ideals of storytelling in the novella. In a face-to-face meeting with *Foe*, the English writer of Crusoe's island story, she experiences both the anxiety of influence and, more specifically, the anxiety of authorship that further causes silences in her narration. She revises the canonical image of (De) *Foe* who is, here, merely a *beast of burden* writing in the attic instead of an intellectual. She withholds details of her pre-island life in the retelling in order to resist *Foe*'s attempts to excite English readers by mispresenting her as a whore. This analysis is carried out by Dr. Mirza Muhammad Zubair Baig in his research paper “Rewriting Breeds Silences: Beast of Burden, Anxiety of Authorship and the Question of Truth in J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*” published in 2014 in *Pakistan Journal of Women's Studies: Alam-e-Niswan* (Vol: 21, Issue: 2, Standard: 1024-1256).

9. The Erasure of a Mad and an Infamous Mother in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*

The character of Bertha Mason has been stereotyped as a “madwoman in the attic” in Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre* (1847). Jean Rhys in her novel *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966), has tried to re-inscribe her character as Antoinette by analyzing how the imperialist and patriarchal forces led a woman from the wide world of

Sargasso Sea to the attic of Thornfield Hall England. Dr. Mirza Muhammad Zubair Baig's contention to this corrective process of rewriting as *rerighting* in his research paper “The Erasure of a Mad and an Infamous Mother in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, is that, in an effort to authenticate Antoinette's character, this writing has *othered* Annette, Antoinette's mother, and has, in return, created another madwoman who has been left unattended in the plot that should have written back to the canon instead of furthering canonical images. His paper carrying this discussion was published in *Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies*, pp: 23-35, Vol: 9 in 2014.

10. Understanding Hypertextual Modalities Using Meaning Making Strategies

This qualitative study attempts to understand different meaning making strategies that digital readers employ while they navigate through hypertextual compositions. These digital online texts are quite in vogue after the emergence of information and communication technologies. A digital hypertext seems to invite noticeably different interactional strategies and this difference occurs at various levels especially the way texts are prepared, presented and explored by their readers. These strategies appear to be unlike the way traditional sequential texts are processed for meaning making. After carrying out an experimental study, Dr Mudassar Mahmood Ahmad in his paper “Understanding Hypertextual Modalities Using Meaning Making Strategies” published in NUML: The Journal of Critical Inquiry discussed that the findings were insightful as the participants applied new meaning making strategies in addition to the traditional ones that they use for print based representations. These strategies

print based representations. These strategies highlight their preferred ways of learning as well.

11. Jihad & Terrorism: a Metaphor in Conflict

A harmonious veneration of ancient Greece, incarnation of ethics, moral values and devotion to the civic affairs, revisited by the humanist chancellors, Salutati, Bruni and Poggio. Coluccio Salutati (1331-1406), was famous for his literary skill. Salutati's magic pen had done more damage than thirty squadrons of Florentine cavalry. The legend debate, however strongly rooted in Islam, relatively suggesting parallel changes in all other social spheres, including the ideals of responsible human action and contemplative modes of life. The human ideals used to reflex in human excellence and dignity which ultimately disparage in a broad process of socio-cultural changes, that operate in variety of contexts, scientific knowledge and rationality that dissembled dogmas, articulated and transcended the capability of humans to identify themselves with their communities .Growing subjectivity needs increased commitments of all sorts, cultivating himself and the world around him, and by constructing buildings, cities, laws ,governments and work of art. Erasmus, differentiation of human anatomy from that of all other creatures that this being virtually is complete and attenuated with friendship and fair play , not for war, violence and contempt. These ideas were expressed by Dr Hina Abbasi and Dr Musferah Mehfooz in their research paper Jihad & Terrorism: a Metaphor in Conflict published in Journal of Education and Human Development in 2014.

12. The Internationalization of Education: The Object of Desire in the 21st Century

The first and the foremost intellectual migration can be traced back to history. It was first cross-national diasporas of scholars and researchers, occurred during 355B.C and in 388BC when academics migrated to the Lyceum and Athens, a paradigm shift from Idealism to Pragmatism. Cross- border mobility of the scholars was frequent during Middle Ages. European universities usually stimulated scholars, physician and scientist from many parts of the world and became the center of teaching and learning. There was a tremendous flow of human capital for multiple reasons such as economic, political, social and intellectual demands. The movement of the highly educated skilled individual is categorized as brain drain, and is a constant phenomenon. Human capital being a strategic resource, moves heavily in one direction, is the net flow movement from developing countries to developed ones. Those leaving home ground suffer from shortages of high- level skilled work force, emigration mean lost investment in human capital as well as lost potential taxpayers. The growing complexity of brain drain demands increasing cooperation between developing and developed countries to foster new policy approaches to recurrent economic crisis. Since globalization continues to generate worldwide changes and challenges, the present brain drain phenomenon may be viewed in global perspective. The present note emphasized to foster the global perspective and commitment to resolve world- encompassing problems, including resource depletion, financial instability, poverty, violence and war. Moreover, Giddens observes that the accelerating global integration dilute the

exciting legitimacy of the nation, state and its powers to resolve the problems of life as it becomes irrelevant in terms of its expected impact on the society. Circumstances of accelerating global integration, the nation state has become too small for the big problems and too big for the small problems of life. These concepts are put forth by Dr Hina Abbasi and Dr Musferah Mehfooz in their research paper “The Internationalization of Education: The Object of Desire in the 21st Century” published in *Journal of Education and Human Development* in 2014.

13. Similarity in the Philosophy of Worship in Torah and Quran

The concepts of individual and collective worship are common in the Torah and Quran. They are not empty rituals but a source of social reformation. The basic fundamentals of religion and preaching of all messengers, from Adam to Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H), are essentially similar in nature. Though many different Sharias were revealed and many declared redundant and changed, religion did not change. Hence, though the religious beliefs of all messengers were identical, the Sharia (revealed law) and mode of worship varied. Yet, all prophets were Muslims because the religion of all is one, and this Oneness is reflected in the similarities in the teachings present in all revealed books. These concepts were discussed by Dr Musferah Mehfooz, Fatima Javaid and Iffat Khalid in their research paper “Similarity in the Philosophy of Worship in Torah and Quran” published in *Journal of Islamic Studies and Culture* in June 2014, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 153-175. The article aimed to study as to how rituals of worship lead to the formation of a healthy society. It also attempted to highlight the similarities inherent in the Law of Moses and Islamic Law.

14. Parenting Practices and Well being Outcome in Young Adulthood

Parental over-protective attitude (including parental over-control & intrusion) towards their children contribute negatively in the development of their self-esteem and the children are more vulnerable towards psychological disturbances, even in their early adulthood. Whereas parents who show affection, emotional warmth, and empathy; contribute positively in their self-esteem and serve as a guard against psychological disturbances, even in their early adulthood. These findings are discussed by Dr. Khawer Bilal Baig, Assistant Professor of Applied Psychology, in his paper “Parenting Practices and Wellbeing Outcome in Young Adulthood” published in the “Pakistan Journal Of Social and Clinical Psychology” (volume 11).

15. Nomos and Opacities: An approach for studying the Sufi-Artisan Relationship in pre-partition Punjab

Published in the Journal of Research Society of Pakistan (Vol. 52, No. 1, Jan-Jun 2015), Dr Hussain Ahmad Khan's article suggests that social historians widely acknowledge Sufis' influence on social life in pre-1947 subcontinent. However, they have produced a limited literature on Sufis' relationship with professional and marginalized communities (such as traders, artisans and unskilled labour). Part of the problem is the lack of primary source-material available on professional and marginalized communities and methodological tools for constructing such a social history. Currently, social history is facing challenges from other borderline disciplines and social historians are turning their attention towards other types of history. Dr Hussain, who is an assistant professor in the Department of

Humanities, COMSATS, Lahore, argues that it is now even more important to devise a methodological approach to explore Sufis' social history which is already being overlooked by social historians. His methodological essay proposes an approach for studying the Sufi-artisan relationship in pre-partition Punjab by engaging Peter Berger's concept of nomos and

Robert Darnton's idea of "opacities" in folktales. Both these concepts intend to grasp an insider's views and can help the social and cultural historians in making sense of a world which is separated by us because of its pre-modern life and mentalité.



Interview of Dr. Tariq Rehman

Tariq Rahman is a scholar, linguist and an acclaimed researcher. He is author of many books and other publications, mainly in the field of linguistics. He has been awarded several national and international awards in recognition of his research and scholarly work. He is Professor Emeritus at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and Acting Dean, School of Education, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore. Humanities Department is fortunate to have the opportunity to interview Dr. Tariq Rahman and be enlightened by his inspirational views.

1. What idea/ incident/personality inspired you to be “Dr Tariq Rahman”?

I was never inspired by anybody and I was self-educated doing my BA and first MA as a private candidate. This is because I did not study in a Pakistani college or university. I joined the armed forces at the age of eighteen and was commissioned as an officer in the armoured corps of the army. However, in 1971 I decided that I was against the military action in Bangladesh so I should resign my commission. I was relieved of my command in 1978. As reading was my hobby I got a British Council scholarship and got an MA and Ph.D from England. Basically, I chose to join academia because I knew I would get more time to read. Later, I found that writing too was interesting. Eventually research became my hobby and source of pleasure. The rest followed. Had there

been no 1971 War I would have kept serving in the army and reading for pleasure but I would never have published. So it was an incident of 1971 in my life which made me what I am.



2. What project/book are you currently working on?

I intend to write (a) an alternative history of Pakistan (b) the history of Islamic militancy in South Asia.

3. You have received many national and international awards; you are an acclaimed researcher, and the first incumbent of the Pakistan Chair at the University of California, Berkeley, the list goes on, what was the most ravishing moment of your life?

When I received the Humboldt Research Award in Germany in June 2012, I was going up to receive it when it was announced that I was the first Pakistani to be given this award. I was also told that in Germany it is informally called the 'Little Nobel Prize'. This was a truly humbling and delightful moment.

4. Anything which you still dream to do?

I want to be a vice chancellor and to ride on horseback from Peshawar to Lahore. I also want to be a fellow of All Souls College, University of Oxford, where one is free to do one's research without any requirement to teach or to show one's work to anybody. The life there comes as close to Aristotle's idea of the life of the mind as possible.

I am now beyond the legal age for a vice chancellorship in a Pakistani public university and also for a fellowship at All Souls College. The only ambition which may be fulfilled is to lead a team of riders from Peshawar to Lahore.

5. Please share your experience as a Fulbright scholar.

I collected material for a book and I went with my family to many places by car in the USA. I did not collaborate with anybody and did not even go often to the Department of Linguistics where I was placed. Instead, I spent my time in the library, reading at home and visiting the South Asia centre since my real interest was South Asia and not pure linguistics.

6. How can our students prepare and get this scholarship? Give them some tips.

- (1) They should have a good GRE and TOEFL score.
- (2) They should have a precise research proposal.
- (3) They should have a simple and truthful personal statement.

7. It's the age of technology and the prevalent trend is to remain busy using gadgets and social networking sites most of the time. How can we inculcate reading habit in our students?

Most people have never been fond of reading but even those who may be potentially drawn to it, will read on the screen. Adjust to this social change but make your evaluation stringent if you are an examiner as this will force students to read temporarily. I don't think anyone can really make most people interested in reading though it is possible to make books interesting to prevent potential readers from getting bored.

8. You are fond of reading and exploring Urdu and its history, Global History while your area of specialization is English and Linguistics. How have you excelled in these diversified fields?

My specialization is neither English nor linguistics proper. My Ph.D is in English literature but I am not a literary critic any more. I only have an M.Litt degree in linguistics which does not qualify me to be called a linguist. I do, however, claim to be a historian of the language politics and practices of the Muslims of north India and Pakistan. I have also published on sociolinguistics, language politics and educational linguistics. I explained these fields because I got interested in them and, research being my hobby, I taught myself Persian, the Devanagiri script and other skills required to research on linguistic history.

9. You finance your projects yourself and in one of your interviews you said that "when there is a will, there is a way"..How a beginner can get this determination?

As I said, in my case it was my quest for intellectual pleasure which made me finance my books. Everyone spends money on having fun and this is what I did. However, I think the universities should pay for the research of beginners not the individual.

10. Doors are not open for the beginners as you too faced many hurdles when conducting research for your first book..how did you handle it ? Did you lose your interest or ever thought to leave research?

It was very difficult and even now data is denied to me. As I have no research assistant I have to go to places which do not cooperate with me. I had internal motivation so I persisted but the state

should ensure that researchers are not denied data.

11. Any message for young researchers?

Keep pushing your universities and the state for funds and data.



Participation of Faculty/students in Trainings, Workshops and Seminars

- Dr. Kashif Fida attended a workshop along with the students of FA12 batch on Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis(IPA) at GCU, Lahore.
- The conference "**The Current Challenges for Psychology: From Crisis to Sustainable Solutions**" provided a platform to Dr. Shahmeem, Ms. Maryaim Akram and Dr Kashif Fida on 19th – 21st March 2015, at University of the Punjab, Lahore, for sharing findings from empirical work applying psychological knowledge to various fields of Psychology. Prominent scholars, distinguished academicians and researchers participated in the conference. BPSY FA12, SP13 and SP14 students were also among the attendees.
- The following members presented their papers in Research Conference titled as "National Conference on Language, Literature and Culture" at Imperial College of Business Administration, Lahore on 15-16 April 2015.
 - 1. Dr. Khalida Tanvir Syed
 - 2. Dr. Mirza Muhammad Zubair Baig
 - 3. Dr. Mudassar Mahmood Ahmad
 - Ms. Javaria Farooqui
- Ms. Amna naveed Attended TKTE training as a master trainer (18-28 June 2014) organised by British Council.
- Attending ICP 2015 was an honor for Dr. Kasif Fida. More than 600 paper were presented and more than 2000 professionals and students attended the said conference. It was a wonderful learning and networking experience not only for him but also for the BS students of COMSATS.
- Department of Humanities arranged a session by USEFP (United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan) on Fulbright Scholarships in Seminar Room A-Block on Tuesday 12th May, 2015.
- Ms. Tooba Ahmed and Ms. Shazia Aziz arranged "A Walk for Nature" around campus with the students of FA-13-BEC, Sections A and B. The students were asked to observe nature, contemplate and then produce poems based on their experience.
- Ms. Mariyam Akram accompanied CIIT Lahore team in Inter-University Performing Arts Competition, Mental Health Week held in UCP on "Parent-Child Relationship" on 23rd October, 2014 and they got 3rd position. She observed that her students were curious about the knowledge they achieve and its practical application in real world.
- To grasp the point of view of senior

psychologists and educators about the expansion of educational psychology in present scenario. Ms. Mariyam Akram participated in the **5th International Conference 2014 on Educational Psychology**, held on 13th November, 2014, organized by National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. The conference gathered scholars, educators, psychologists and science professionals from all outstanding postgraduate institutions in the area of educational psychology throughout Pakistan.

- Students of COMSATS Lahore participated in an awareness walk on 22nd November 2014 (Saturday) at Lahore University of Management Sciences organized by IUCN with the collaboration of The Government of Pakistan and UNDP. The objective of the walk was to create awareness and motivate youth regarding sustainable transport. There were around 70 students from various departments of COMSATS. This was followed by welcome remarks from Mr. Hassan Zaman, Communications Officer PAKSTRAN, IUCN. This was followed by screening of documentary “The Road to Sustainability”. There was a huge round of applause from the students at the end of documentary, showing that the intended message has been conveyed in an appropriate manner.
- Ms. Shazia Gulzar attended a workshop

on qualitative research in the month of April. The purpose of the research was to train Ph. D Scholar about paradigms of qualitative research and also highlighting the trend shift from quantitative to qualitative.

- Ms. Shazia Gulzar also attended a 2-week workshop on *Factor analysis: Its assumptions, rationale and use* which was organized by University of management and technology, Lahore in February, 2015.
- Dr. Mudassar Mahmood (Assistant professor of English) attended IELTS, UKVI and IELTS Life Skills information Sessions on Thursday, 14th May, 2015 Crystal Hall at the Pearl Continental Hotel. Mr. Fakhar Jaffery and Mr. Steve, representatives from British Council, talked about two new tests required for immigration and student's visa.
- Ms. Umara Shaheen attend a workshop at UCP, Lahore on April 14, 2015. The title was “United Nations Communications Workshop”. BPSY FA12, SP13 and SP14 students were also among the attendees. Workshop promoted the role of the U.N in promoting communication development in Pakistan.
- Dr. Mirza Muhammad Zubair Baig successfully completed FDA workshop on "Testing and Evaluation" scheduled at CIIT, Sahiwal from May 21-23, 2015.

Judge in Declamation Contest at U.E.T

Ms. Shumaila Bari represented COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore as a Judge for English Debates on Declamation Contest on 20th October 2014. It was an enlightening experience for her. She thinks that the passion of students for the topics related to the issues of contemporary Pakistan was worth appreciating. The apt analysis, the pun and the eloquence of youth was inspiring. It added value to her knowledge of debating skills by observing different orators employing various styles.



Ms Shumaila with team of CIIT



Students' Testimonials

1. Mujahid Abbas

MS English

I have recently completed the course work for my MS in English from COMSATS Lahore and am now pursuing my research work. COMSATS has given me all that I could have wished for in my MS programme, an academic environment, wonderful guidance, love and affection from my teachers and fellow students alike.



The experience of being a COMSIAN extends well beyond the borders of studies to the environment enveloping you at all times. When I first entered COMSATS, the electronically well equipped class-rooms and the language lab (which I had seen for the first time in my academic career as a prospective linguist) rather intimidated me, but as I gradually settled in, I was totally taken in by the building facilities offered to me as a student.

The academic excellence offered to us in this particular course exceeds all the experience offered in other educational institutions in Pakistan. Being taught by teachers who are experts in their fields, literally, as they all hold

PhDs in their respective fields, could have been quite daunting, but the magnitude of the teachers' expertise in their field is only exceeded by the magnitude of their hearts. They are not only my teachers, they are my mentors, they have not only given me an expertise in English Language and Literature but have also given me the confidence to take it up as a profession and represent myself at any pedestal where I may be required to present myself, be it National or International. I would most definitely advise all those who wish to continue their studies to enroll in COMSATS for I know that I'll remain a COMSIAN in my heart forever.

2. Muhammad Azam

MS English

“Got admission in MS English at COMSATS Lahore: feeling lucky”

It was my Face book status when I got enrolled in MS English at COMSATS, Lahore. Studying MS English Linguistics and Literature at COMSATS, Lahore is a fantastic experience. The program itself is an interesting combination of two subfields, so are the Professors teaching us.



All our teachers holding PhD in their respective areas bring with themselves not only a genuine interest in and vast experience of teaching but also of research in their particular areas, be it Literature or Linguistics. These facts make them expert supervisors from whom we can learn a lot about research in the real sense of the term. We get amazing advice and support from them at every step starting from the selection of topic to the accomplishment of the task. Course work is also full of fun with varied experiences in the form of seminars, presentations, group work, exploring researches, role plays and the list goes on.

Lush green fields, beautiful flowers, friendly and problem-solving faculty, extremely supportive

staff, and intellectually stimulating environment are just a few of the campus features. Fully furnished classrooms with modern accessories, a language lab, computer labs, library, HEC Digital library, internet facility and vast space for extra-curricular activities make this institute unique among others.

Both the academic and administrative staff are very encouraging and willing to help at all times. They care sincerely not only about our academic concerns but also about our well being as persons. The department of Humanities provides a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere to work in, and I have also been lucky enough to make many lasting friends during my time there. I am proud to be a COMSIAN.

3. Kamran Musa

MS English

Academic excellence and outstanding faculty is what describes MS in English (Linguistics and Literature) in COMSATS, Lahore where all the teachers are not only highly qualified but Doctors in their related fields. During my stay here, I found my peers supportive and my teachers very friendly and knowledgeable. They helped me on each and every step and extended extra help whenever I required.



The campus is vast and beautiful providing a high tech library and resource material. It is a life changing experience as I got a chance to attend different workshops and seminars and interact with other students of different universities which not only expanded my horizon but also helped me to apply my knowledge.

Diverse in nature, COMSATS has provided me many opportunities to learn and grow. Indulging in discussions with the experts in the field has

made me keener into exploring the world of knowledge. Not only that, we also go through extensive drills of preparing, presenting and producing our work. The experience so far is so fantabulous that I am already feeling like missing my department/institute. It is not just an institute but a vision which ignites the passion to develop and contribute. The realization of my aspiration to be a distinguished researcher seems possible in COMSATS.

4. Sana Tariq

MS English

The one reason why I feel that COMSATS is one of the best universities in Pakistan is that no expenses are spared in providing the students with top quality education and learning. Our teachers at COMSATS are also our personal mentors, moulding us in every aspect into becoming excellent students of English Language and Literature. They have done far more than just educate and teach – they motivated and inspired me to strive for my passion and future.

COMSATS also provides a student with endless opportunities – not only has it made me more analytical but also fostered a knowhow of how to research in various realms of my subject.

Also, I love the fact how the student population of COMSATS is so diverse. They come from all parts of Pakistan. It doesn't matter where you come from; we're all like one big family here!

The department of Humanities is more than a mere department for me- it has become my home.

The past 2 years at COMSATS have been the most formative and memorable of my life. The learning curve has been steep, there have been tears of joy and of sadness, but I know that the education has been top notch; I know that we would not be the capable, competent and happy Class of Language and Literature had we studied anywhere else.

5. Mahnoor Khan

BS Psychology

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology is something more than classrooms and grades. It has given me countless memories. I stepped in, changing my field entirely from engineering to psychology just the day before the orientation. But well it's never too late. My reason for pursuing psychology was fairly simple: my love for this



Psychology helps you in every step of your life. I am grateful to teachers whose expertise, individual attention and genuine concern brought out the best in me. Every second, every moment spent at COMSATS has been phenomenal, from cafes to classes, from DCO's office to trips, from student week events to CIMUN'15, from extreme winters to extreme summers, and the list goes on. These events and moments will remain engraved in our memories

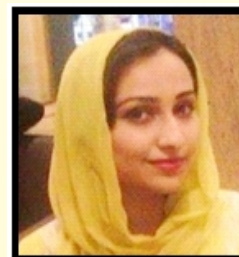
forever. Beautiful, Unforgettable, and remarkable. COMSATS played an integral role in shaping us, taught me to believe in myself, showed me that dreams do come true; you just need enough courage to take the first step. This is a place where I made friends, learnt from my mistakes, fell down and stood up tall. It has been an incredible journey and there is much more to come.

6. Arooj Abid

BS Psychology

It has been a great experience at COMSATS University so far. I did my first semester at COMSATS Islamabad and then migrated to Lahore campus due to some reasons. I found both campuses very inspiring as the faculty is very helpful and cooperative.

Moreover they are highly concerned about the learning of the students as they use many practical strategies in order to teach a particular topic, which I think is very beneficial for students and helps us understand better. The faculty is highly qualified and they have proficient work experience due to which they are able to teach their particular course in a very professional manner. There are many co-curricular activities too that are usually done in the 'Students' week' which is a good source of



enjoyment for the students. In addition to this, there are many trips and seminars that are arranged by the teachers for the better learning of students. COMSATS provides a friendly learning environment which motivates the students to excel in their courses and gives opportunity to the students to work hard and achieve a more professional degree which is very well recognized. Overall my experience has been very exotic and I am proud to be a part of this prestigious institution.

7. Mehr - un - Nisa

BS Psychology

I have been studying BS Psychology at CIIT since spring, 2014. Although university has started psychology department recently but it has gained its reputation as one of the best in the field by delivering what it requires.



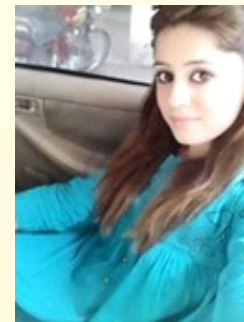
Faculty comprises of most fine professors, and their teaching techniques have made me feel educated beyond my years as it includes both theoretical and practical work. Beyond basic course of studies, the department also focuses on

educational tours, seminars and workshops which I find very beneficial and informative. I take pride being the student of this marvelous institution.

8. Muniba Gul Durrany

BS Psychology

It has been more than one and a half year since I entered this university. I took admission to this university because my friend suggested me. I chose Psychology as my major because I wanted to learn how to help others by solving their problems. Though studying in semester system was an entirely new experience for me, but our teachers guided us very well about everything which we faced during our stay in this university and told us ways to solve them.



Our department is the best department in the university. We are blessed to be taught by Ph. D professors. They are very cooperative and have provided friendly environment to students. They always try to help us and make us feel motivated. They give extra lectures to the students who need it. They never degrade them for their mistakes and help them to improve their skills. Initially, I failed to settle with few teachers but after sharing this with our batch advisor I felt satisfied because he helped me and asked the

concerned to create friendly environment so that we may easily concentrate on studies and understand academic requirements to fulfill them. I also met different people in this university and made new friends.

I have become social and improved my self confidence. I am spending best days of my life in this university and wish to spend the same in future. I really hope to achieve my goal to make my teachers and parents feel proud of me.